

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ANNEX

to BULLETIN no 37/74

of 25 October 1974

6th meeting between a

DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

AND A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

from 16 to 20 September 1974

in Washington D.C. and San Francisco

REPORT

REPORT

of the 6th meeting between a delegation from the European Parliament
and a delegation from the United States Congress

I. POLITICAL RESULTS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING IN WASHINGTON

1. This sixth inter-parliamentary meeting between a delegation from the European Parliament (members listed in annex) and members of the United States Congress took place only one month after the assumption of the Presidency of the United States by Mr Gerald FORD, whom our delegation had met the previous year (October 1973) in Washington, when he had just been appointed Vice-President.

Although he was due that same day to address the Assembly of the United Nations in New York, Mr FORD received our delegation at the White House. He underlined the main points of his speech to the United Nations, and in particular the necessity for greater cooperation between the United States and the European Community to solve all the problems facing the industrialized countries, and to cooperate in the development of the less favoured countries. Mr FORD put forward very interesting views on the role of parliaments, particularly in foreign policy, adding that he still thought of himself basically as a parliamentarian.

The planned meeting with Secretary of State, Mr KISSINGER - whom we knew from our fourth meeting - had to be postponed initially at his request, and then because the military aircraft 'Air Force Two', put at our disposal to permit us to keep our engagements in San Francisco, had to leave.

2. The delegation had particularly interesting meetings in the Department of State with Mr Arthur HARTMAN, Under-Secretary for European Affairs, in the Department of Trade with Mr Frederick DENT, in the Department of Agriculture with Mr Earl BUTZ, in the Treasury Department with Mr Jack BENNET, and at the White House with Mr Kenneth RUSH, Presidential Adviser on economic policy.

3. The exchange of views with members of Congress dealt as usual with all topical questions on foreign policy, security, energy supplies and trade, particularly in agriculture.

4. The two delegations broke new ground in inter-parliamentary procedure by organizing a public hearing on multinational companies which, in the opinion of both participants and observers, was particularly interesting. A detailed account of this will soon be

available.

Similarly, a public debate on the situation in Greece, in Cyprus, and in the Eastern Mediterranean was most successful, thanks particularly to the speeches of Mr ROSENTHAL and Mr FELLERMAIER who had both just returned from missions to that area.

5. On the organizational level, work was carried out on the basis of a simplified system involving a single chairman for the meetings - an American and a European alternately - and plenary meetings of the delegations were held instead of specialized groups or working parties.

A reasonable continuity in the make-up of the delegation from the European Parliament helps to make our meetings extremely effective since a number of those taking part know each other and formalities between delegations can be reduced to a minimum.

The extension of the mission to Washington to include an additional programme of contacts and visits to San Francisco and the district of San Matéo was judged to be of great value to our delegation. The journey helped most of us to realize the size of the North American Continent and to appreciate the realities of daily economic life in a State - California - with a reputation for being dynamic and forward-looking.

6. On the practical level, the two parliamentary delegations wish:

- (a) to maintain the present frequency of meetings (every six months);
- (b) to concentrate the debates in plenary session on a small number of political themes chosen in advance but linked to matters of topical interest.

7. The European delegation invited the members of the United States Congress to a seventh meeting next spring in Germany.

DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

for a meeting with a

DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Washington D.C. and San Francisco

16-20 September 1974

List of Members

Mr Pierre-Bernard COUSTE, Chairman

Mr Jan BAAS

Mr Gérard BORDU

Mr Giovanni BOANO

Mr Libero DELLA BRIOTTA

Mr Maurice FAURE

Mr Ludwig FELLERMAIER

Mr Horst GERLACH

Mr Roger HOUDET

Mr Hand Edgar JAHN

Mr Peter Michael KIRK

Mr Erwin LANGE

Mr Christian de la MALENE

Mr Willem J. SCHUIJT

Mr Knud THOMSEN

Mr Mario VETRONE

